

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet (1/9) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1a and 1b and replace original sheet 1/9. Figs. 1a and 1b have been labeled as “prior art”, as requested by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending, with claims 1, 8 and 11-13 being independent.

Claims 3-7, 9 and 10 are amended and claims 1, 2, 8 and 11-13 are cancelled without prejudice herein.

Claims 3-7 have each been rewritten in independent form to recite all the features of claims 1 and 2. Claims 9 and 10 have each been rewritten in independent form to recite all features of claim 8. The amendment is supported by the application as filed and no new matter has been added.

Claims 3-7, 9 and 10 are now present in this application, with each being independent.

Reconsideration of this application, in view of these amendments and remarks, is respectfully requested.

Objections to the drawings

Figs. 1a and 1b are objected to as not being labeled "prior art". Applicants hereby submit replacement sheet 1/9 in which Figs. 1a and 1b have been labeled "prior art."

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,357,084 to Wu, et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The instant application discloses techniques for increasing the rigidity of prestressed composite girders such that the clearance of the prestressed composite girders can be reduced (see, for example, page 6, lines 21-24, of the originally filed application). In particular, Applicants embed a steel plate in their prestressed composite girder in ranges where negative and/or positive moments are the greatest, thus increasing the rigidity of their prestressed composite girder.

On the other hand, Wu discloses structure for overcoming the fabrication, transportation and installation problems associated with the sheer size of multi-span guideway girders used in maglev track construction. His solution is to prefabricate girder-segments (details 1 and 2, Fig. 3) for the guideway, install these as simply-supported girders, and connect the respective top plates (detail 14) and bottom plates (detail 15) of the two girder-segments using pre-embedded steel connecting elements (detail 6, Figs. 2 and 4-7) so that forces are reliably transferred between the two girder-segments such that they perform like a single multi-span guideway girder (see, for example, col. 4, lines 30-50, and col. 6, lines 45-55).

Wu absolutely fails to disclose any negative or positive moment range in his prestressed composite girder structure. This is not surprising, as Wu is only concerned with overcoming problems associated with the construction of maglev track, not with reducing the clearance of prestressed composite girders.

At least because Wu does not disclose any negative or positive moment ranges in his prestressed composite girder structure, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-10 are in fact patentable over Wu.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '084 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,764 to Stubler.

The Applicants note that Stubler does not cure the deficiencies of Wu.

Claims 11-13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicants believe that this art does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the
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